DOING ARCHAEOLOGY FROM ABOVE!

Identifying archaeological sites can be hard – especially on foot! One of many techniques landscape archaeologists use to help them find and understand sites is aerial photography. This includes drone imagery, satellite imagery, and photos taken from planes, kites, and balloons! In this activity, you'll be asked to look at some famous sites from the Mediterranean world and identify some of their features – all from the air.

Our first stop is the Late Bronze Age citadel of Mycenae. The site was at its height from 1,600 to 1,200 BCE – over three thousand years ago. Mycenae is known for having *grave circles*, which are stone circles with graves in them. It also has walls and storerooms. See if you can spot some of its key features.



Can you find Grave Circle A? Do you see the foundations of houses and storerooms? What about the walls? Circle what you see!

STUDENT NAME: DATE:

Our next stop takes us to the banks of the river Nile in Egypt. At Giza, pharaohs built huge mortuary structures now known as pyramids because of their distinctive shape. Can you pick these out in the image below? (Hint: there are three!) Circle them!



Below is the very well-preserved theater at the archaeological site of Ephesus in modern-day Turkey. It sits just northeast of the *agora*, the ancient version of a city square used for shopping, gathering, and even religious purposes. Can you locate these in the satellite image? Circle what you see!



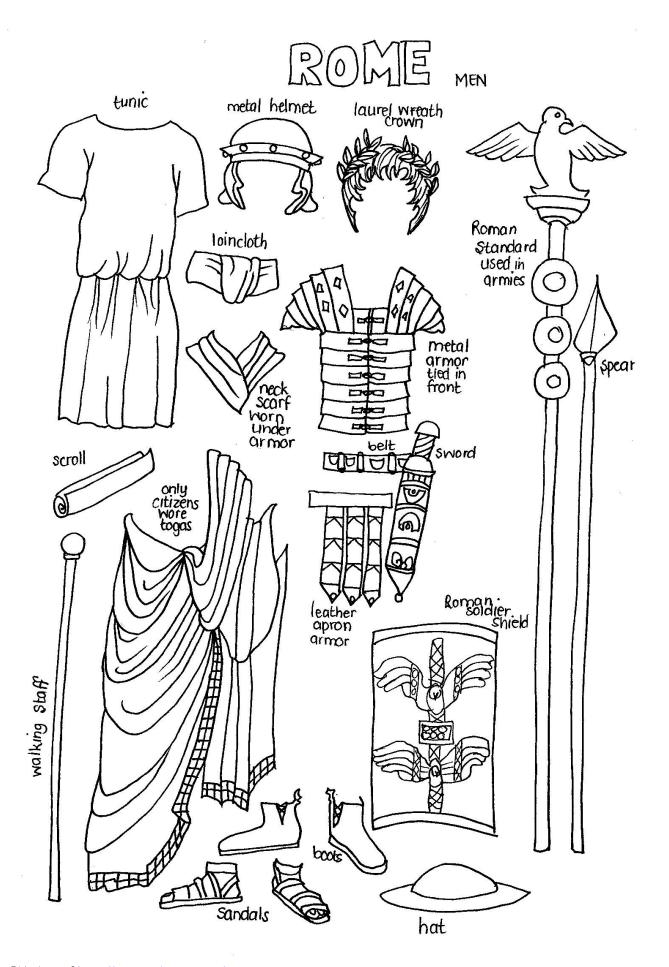
Our last stop takes us to the eternal city: Rome! As you can see in the image below, Rome is a city where ancient ruins coexist with modern buildings – this makes aerial survey incredibly difficult, but not impossible.



Do you see the Colosseum? It's a large, round structure that housed gladiator fights, naval reenactments, and even hunts. Southwest of the colosseum is the Circus Maximus, a long, rectangular venue for chariot racing. Quite a way north and a bit west, you might find the Pantheon, a small, round temple for the Roman gods.

Now, use the Internet or an encyclopedia to look up these places you just examined from above. Did you find their important features in these aerial photographs? Archaeologists use photographs like this to help identify not only where things are on a map, but where they are in relation to other ancient buildings. Below, list the things you found in these photographs above.

I found:	 	
I didn't find:		



LET'S MAKE GRAFFITI

Have you ever seen writing or drawing on walls in your town? Graffiti is everywhere, from little scribbles on a wall, to big letters and art made with spray paint. In the ancient Roman world, people loved writing on the walls. They loved it so much that we still have graffiti we can see today that is almost 2,000 years old!



Let's look at the map of the Roman Empire at its height. It reached from the British Isles to the Middle East!

> CAN YOU CIRCLE ITALIA AND ROMA?



We have graffiti from all over the Roman Empire. The picture below is from Pompeii. Pompeii was destroyed by the volcano Vesuvius in 79 AD. Graffiti was preserved, and we see it everywhere. **Ancient Romans** wrote love poems, brags, complaints, and political comments on the walls around them.





Student Name: Date:



FUN FACT: THE ROMANS TREATED THE LETTERS "U" AND "V" THE SAME. ALSO, THEY DIDN'T HAVE SOUNDS WE HAVE IN ENGLISH, LIKE "CH" AND "SH" AND "TH"!



Here, you can see writing on the wall preserved in Pompeii! It's protected by glass. For being 2,000 years old, it's shocking we can see what people were thinking about in the ancient world. Let's learn the letters they used to make graffiti! Below, we have a chart of the different letters the Romans used to write on their walls! You can see some letters are different than our letters.

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Now, make your own graffiti in the box below! You can write your name, your family's names, your friends' names, or even little poems! Also, be sure to draw yourself next to your name.



ANGIENT EGYPT

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Ancient Votives

A votive is an object that is offered to a god or goddess voluntarily. For the ancient Greeks and Romans, these offerings were usually made when the person really wanted something, like healing from an illness, or when the whole community celebrates an achievement, like a victory in battle.

Archaeologists have excavated a lot of votives from places all over the ancient Mediterranean world.

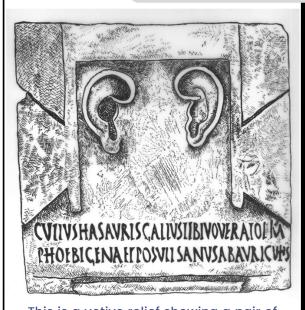
Who?

Sometimes an individual person offered the object, and sometimes a whole group people offered it -- even a whole town!

Where?

Because these objects were dedicated to a particular god or goddess, archaeologists today usually find them in special places such as temples or other sacred areas.

What?



This is a votive relief showing a pair of ears. The inscription says that this relief was dedicated by Cutius Gallus, giving thanks for being healed. It was found at Epidauros, Greece and dates to the Roman period.

There are a lot of different kinds of objects that were dedicated as votive offerings. Some of the ones that archaeologists have found are huge, like statues, and some are really small, like miniature pots.

A special type of votive offering was called an anatomical votive, because it looked like a part of the human anatomy, or body. These votives were left at healing sanctuaries by people

better. The parts of the body that the objects looked like were the parts of the body that were hurting.

Many votive offerings also had inscriptions which help archaeologists figure out who dedicated them and why.

More examples



Dedicated to Zeus at Olympia, the inscription tells us Regilla offered this bull.



Miniature terracotta jar, 7th-6th century BC from Lakonia, Greece.

Design your own votive!

Now that you have learned about anceint votives, try your hand at designing your own! Think about why you would dedicate the votive, and maybe who you would dedicate it to. What object or shape is your votive? What would you include on your votive? Does it have an inscription? What would the inscription say?